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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #261 - As of 4:30 pm EDT)

The Dominican Republic has been quiet and the newly arrived Organization of American States committee is getting down to work although the outlook for a rapid political settlement remains dim.

Ellsworth Bunker, the US member of the three-man committee of the Organization of American States (OAS), stated yesterday that the committee's mission was to work with OAS Secretary General Jose Mora to establish democratic institutions and assist economic development in the Dominican Republic. The committee will also provide political guidance and direction to the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF). Bunker said that the committee has no new formulas but would meet with all groups to find a solution.

Although the US Embassy believes that the image of the OAS in Santo Domingo is improving, the committee is faced by a discouragingly narrow range of viable political solutions. Total victory for either the Imbert regime or the rebels is ruled out. The Guzman formula no longer fulfills demands for a middle-ground solution and has come to mean for most Dominicans a victory for the pro-Bosch forces. Many moderate Dominicans now appear to believe that an eventual political solution may have to be imposed by the OAS.

Meanwhile the rebels continue to attempt to exploit the presence of international organization for their own ends. In a complaint made to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission the rebels allege that a loyalist colonel in La Romana is

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"massacring civilians" and has hanged four policemen. It also states that hunger is widespread there.

The rebel Ministry of Interior and Police today issued a communique requesting citizens to cooperate with the newly formed "constitutionalist military police" so that they "can perform satisfactory work for the good of the community." The communique added that the police will not be an "instrument of repression" and stressed the fact that trained policemen will supervise the force and see that it "faithfully" carries out orders. This is the first indication that the rebels are establishing some form of police force, other than irregular paramilitary units.

Following a series of disturbances earlier this week, the countryside appeared quiet yesterday. The payment of government-employed day workers outside the capital continued yesterday and salary payments in Santiago are expected to start tomorrow.

The large government-owned sugar corporation is the one government entity that has operated normally during the past weeks, although some financial assistance may be needed to meet upcoming wage payments.

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